



Scott Gabriel Morris / TNS
A living room with an exposed brick wall is paired with black and brass accents.

The beauty of EXPOSED BRICK

By Cathy Hobbs
Tribune News Service

For those looking for an industrial chic vibe, exposed brick is often an attractive architectural element. Despite the appeal and beauty, exposed brick has its positives and negatives. How do you hang artwork or mirrors? Should the brick be left raw or should it be painted? Designers have their

own do's and don'ts when it comes to maintaining the beauty of brick. Here are some top tips:

DOS

1. Do use leaning mirrors. Leaning mirrors allow you to add them as a visual element without having to worry about hanging them.
2. Do incorporate other industrial elements into your space such as steel and wood.

3. Do leave exposed brick unpainted if looking to preserve the natural element and appeal of exposed brick.

DON'TS

1. Don't ignore the opportunity to hang artwork. Certain drill bits will allow a screw for hanging purposes.
2. Don't avoid opportunities to showcase exposed brick in interesting ways such as a natural backsplash or

architectural focal point.

3. Don't paint exposed brick without incorporating a primer, as it will be difficult otherwise to achieve full coverage.

Cathy Hobbs, based in New York City, is an Emmy Award-winning television host and a nationally known interior design and home staging expert with offices in New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C. Contact her at info@cathyhobbs.com or visit her website at cathyhobbs.com.

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Spring into action and clean like a pro

By Paul F. P. Pogue
Ask Angi

Whether you've been looking forward to it, or dreading it, there's no getting around it — spring cleaning time has arrived. However, spring cleaning involves more than just a mop, a bucket and some elbow grease (though those are important!) How you plan your time is as important as how you spend it, so you'll get the best results by thinking ahead and making the most of your spring cleaning efforts.

Get excited — and organized

The most effective house cleaning is the cleaning you do every day. Create a daily checklist to keep smaller tasks from piling up. Separate tasks by daily, weekly and monthly needs that have to be handled around the home, and stick to the list. Let the image of a sparkling kitchen floor or clear, sunny windows



Dreamstime / TNS

Door handles and water fixtures often get missed during regular cleaning, so scrub them down during a deep spring cleaning.

motivate you to stay focused on your cleaning goals.

Give these forgotten nooks and crannies a cleaning

Think about more than just the obvious when planning a DIY deep clean. Focus on the hard-to-reach areas and

nooks and crannies that you tend to always put off. Here are some of the areas that are easily overlooked or ignored over the long term and tend to gather dirt and debris:

- Under your oven and other appliances: Pull them out and sweep and mop underneath.

- The tops of door jams and cabinets: Dust and debris can build up over the long term.

- Garbage disposals and drains: You can get gunk out of these by adding baking soda and vinegar, then flushing with hot water.
- Door handles and

water faucets: These are easily overlooked, so scrub and disinfect them during a deep clean.

- Inside waste receptacles: Trash cans and other waste bins collect dirt over time. Scrub them down.
- Fans and light bulbs: Dust buildup can create a fire hazard over time.
- Air vents: You don't necessarily need to get into the vents, but the covers themselves are havens for dirt and grime.

Don't burn yourself out

When you plan your cleaning activities, be honest with yourself. Your schedule should be realistic and something you can devote yourself to so you set yourself up for spring-cleaning success. Get your tools and whatever backup team you've got (time for the kids to earn their allowance) organized and ready to go, then get to it.

When engaging in any kind of

cleaning, consider the housecleaner's mantra: "Front to back, top to bottom." Start at the back of your house and work your way to the front. Then, within each room, start with cleaning at the ceiling and work down. This helps on an organizational front; you're less likely to miss a step if you do everything in the same order. But it also serves a practical purpose. You avoid backtracking over areas you've already cleaned by working back to front. And working top-to-bottom is most vital of all. Every phase of cleaning stirs up dust and debris and tends to push it downward. By starting with the ceiling and ending with the sweep, mopping or vacuuming of the floor, you'll catch everything — even the pollen from those beautiful spring blooms outside.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

©2022 Ask Angi. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.